Salisbury University
Nabb Research Center
Since 1982
for Delmarva History and Culture
We're History...Without You!

Shoreline

Vol. 18 • August/September 2011

For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

Early Scottish Immigration to North America

By Dr. G. Ray Thompson

James Jensen

On Thursday, June 9, guests at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center were treated to an enlightening presentation, "Trans-Atlantic Networks: Scottish Immigrants in the 19th Century" by Ph.D. candidate James Jensen. Jensen, a lecturer at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, is a former graduate assistant at the Nabb Research Center. It was at the Nabb Center that Jensen first came into contact with the host of Scottish immigrants, many of whom were merchants who populated the Eastern Shore in the 17th century. With this knowledge base, Jensen went on to conduct research at the University of Guelph on succeeding waves of Scots immigrants to America. In studying Scottish immigration, Jensen saw the significance of the networking system that he had first observed while doing research in local history at the Nabb Center. Jensen is currently writing his dissertation, which is based on an examination of everyday networks as a major component of household strategies for survival among Scottish immigrants to North America. During the presentation Jensen used case studies to demonstrate how networks associated with place and religious communities helped Scottish settlers reach both short-term and long-term goals.

Jensen emphasized that while many people think of Scotland as a distant outpost in Europe, Scottish settlers who made their way west across the Atlantic were very dedicated, enterprising individuals. Driven by their religious beliefs and their economic drive, Scots not only settled, but became very prosperous merchants and landowners throughout the lower Eastern Shore during the initial century of settlement. By the 1690s an estimated one million Scottish settlers had come to America.

In the following generations, wave after wave of Scottish immigrants came to all the 13 colonies. Many Scots immigrated first to Ulster in Northern Ireland. Descendants of those Scots became the forefathers of the Scots-Irish who became perhaps the largest ethnic group to have settled in 18th century America. Jensen also detailed the settlement patterns of 18th and 19th century Scots.

Dr. G. Ray Thompson is the director and founder of the Nabb Research Center.

Tubman Underground Railroad Conference

By Noelle Ford

The second annual Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Conference was held on June 3-4 at the Cambridge, MD, branch of Chesapeake College. Sponsored by the Choptank Regional History Networks, the conference included historians and researchers from across the country, looking to share their knowledge about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad on the Eastern Shore. This year's conference theme was "Discovering More Pieces of the Puzzle: Families, Communities and Strategies for Freedom." Keynote speaker Dr. Cheryl LaRoche, vice chair of the Maryland Commission on African-American History and Culture, discussed Harriet Tubman's legacy of volunteerism and the historical significance of the Eastern Shore. The conference workshops and presentations echoed Dr. LeRoche's sentiments and explored the importance of the Eastern Shore, a place where Tubman not only guided slaves to freedom but also inspired slaves to help each other escape. Linda Duyer, a volunteer at the Nabb Center and an advocate for the conference, explained that the event allowed the Eastern Shore to be a "voice" for its own history.

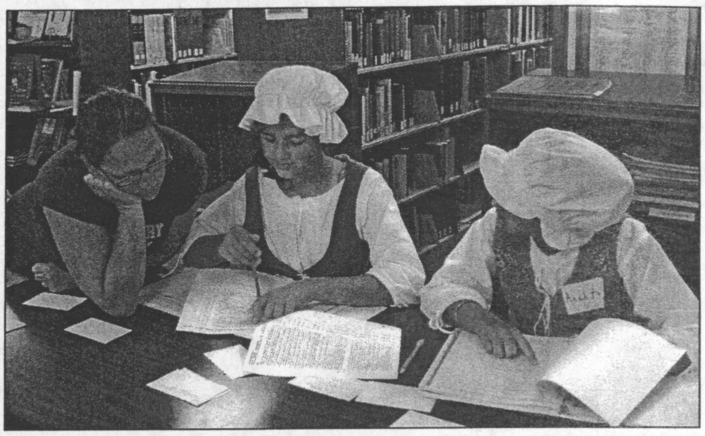
"The [Eastern Shore] is rich in the history of the Underground Railroad," said Duyer, "but also because of the escapes along various pathways to the north, the histories are linked to the histories of others throughout the country and beyond."

Duyer and Damika Baker, Nabb Center outreach coordinator, facilitated a workshop called "Delmarva Resources for Researching African-American History." The workshop focused on the importance of networking, repositories, and public dialog when conducting ongoing historical research. The workshop was accompanied by a small traveling exhibit titled "Faith and Freedom: The Impact of Religion on the Underground Railroad and the Quest for Freedom." The exhibit demonstrated how resources from a repository, like the Nabb Center, can be used.

Noelle Ford was a Nabb Center intern during the spring 2011 semester.

Summer Education Camps in Wicomico

"Victorian Days Camp" participants learn.


S. Pilar Burton helps Pemberton Hall History Day campers during their visit to the Nabb Center.

History education in the summer is alive and well in Wicomico County! History camps this summer introduced student participants to life in two different periods of Eastern Shore history – "Pemberton Summer Nature Camp" by Pemberton Park and "Victorian Days Camp" with Adkins Historical and Museum Complex.

Earlier in July, "Pemberton Summer History Day Camp" brought a group of very interested young people face-to-face with the 18th century planter Isaac Handy and the members of his family. Campers assumed roles of various people – slaves, relatives, friends and associates of Handy during their weeklong learning activity. Not only did students assume specific roles on the 18th century plantation, but they also had to learn their character and create a factual depiction to fellow campers. The Nabb Research Center helped by providing information about the time period: original wills, land records, inventories, religious records and other 18th century records. At the camp, participants also wore appropriate period dress and assumed the role of their character in plantation life to mimic life on the Eastern Shore 250 years ago. On the last day of the event, students presented a dramatic rendition of their characters before a large and supportive audience.

Located in Mardela Springs, MD, Adkins Historical and Museum Complex conducted its third annual "Victorian Days Camp," which introduced about 20 girls to the refinements and realities of life in the late 19th century. Participants of the camp baked, made Victorian crafts, sang late 19th century songs and learned to dance the Virginia Reel. One of the highlights for the historical hopefuls was decorating a May Pole, a wooden structure originally used in European folk festivals but once also utilized for dancing in North American gatherings. "Victorian Days Camp" participants also learned the hardships faced by their ancestors in the kitchen and in washing and ironing clothing. Deportment and proper table etiquette were also covered at the camp.

The value of interactive learning was seen daily in the eyes of the campers as they came to have a greater appreciation for life in the past. The thanks of the Nabb Center staff goes out to a new generation of volunteers who are introducing history to a younger generation in a supportive and exciting way.

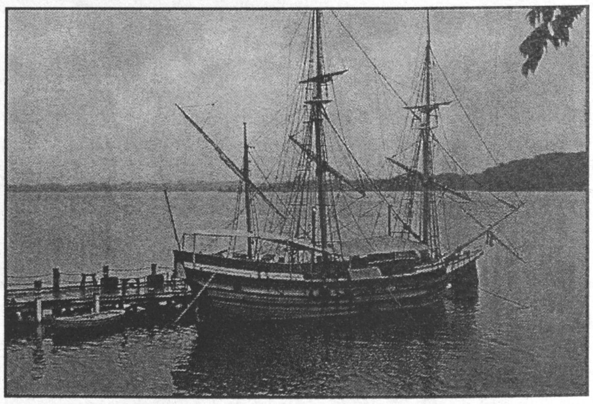
Main Street Salisbury

AN EXHIBIT
AUGUST 29, 2011 - MAY 25, 2012

Discover Main Street Salisbury through artifacts and photographs from Nabb Center archives.

Nabb Center Gallery
410-543-6312
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
1-4 p.m. or by appointment

THE MARYLAND DOVE

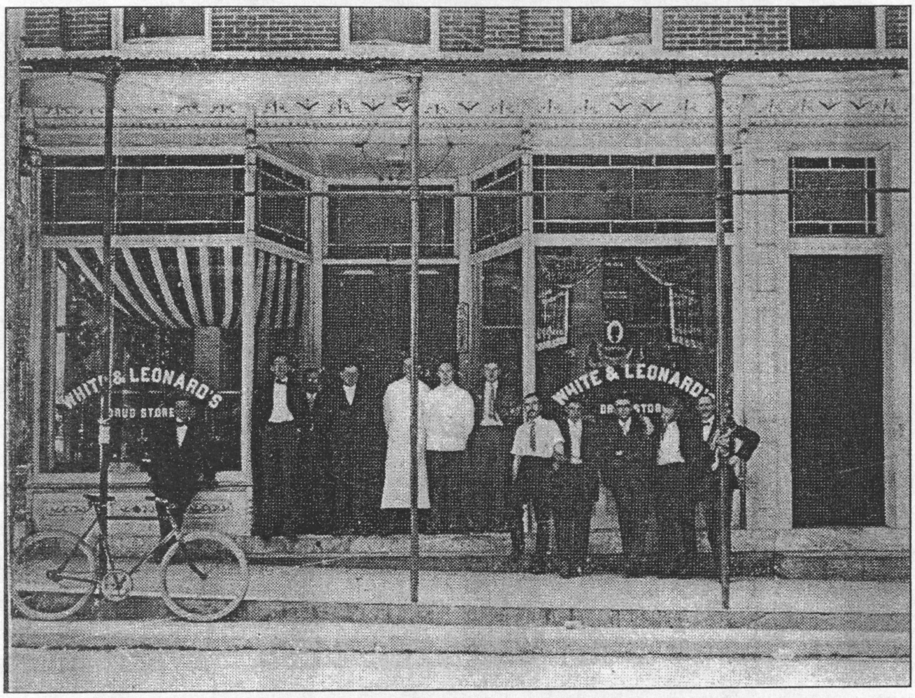


Docked at the Port of Salisbury
September 14-18, 2011

For more information, call 410-543-6312

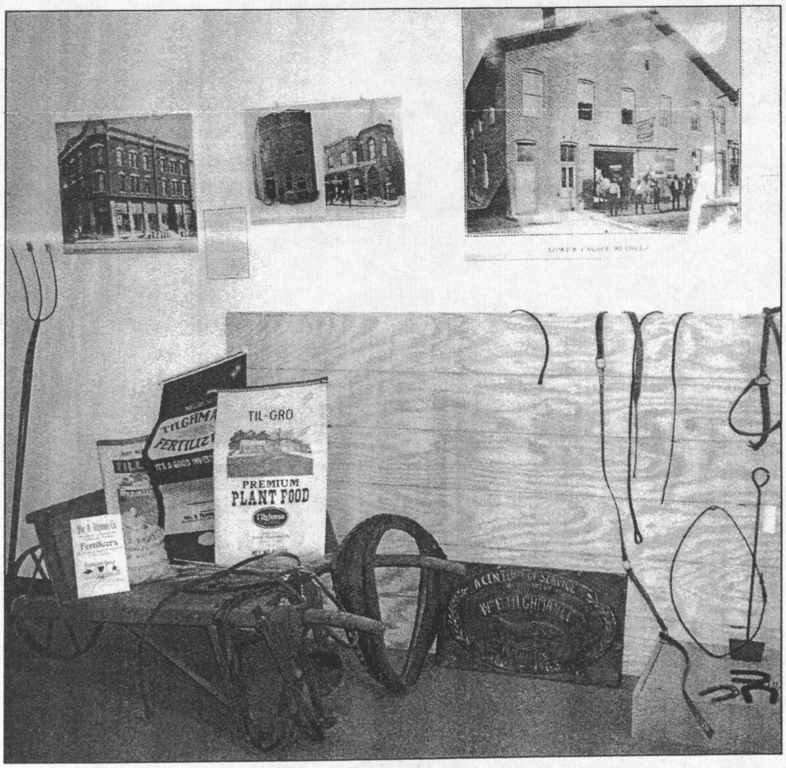
Changing Main Street

By Denise A. Horner



White & Leonard's Drug Store.

During my childhood years in the 1960s, Main Street near the river side was about the only place in Salisbury to shop for clothes and shoes. Having lunch 'downtown' was always a treat for a girl like me—reared in Mt. Vernon, a one road community a few miles outside of Princess Anne. My living room picture window framed a swath of marsh that grew as far back as the horizon on one side and the winding Wicomico River on the other, with a dark hill of pine trees out in front. As you can imagine, this was not exactly a metropolitan view. Saturday shopping downtown consisted of a string of events: parallel parking along the curb, holding my breath as we went into the various 'big' stores with their full-glass storefronts, and looking at all the displays of downtown merchandise. Occasionally, with just the right tug on the family purse-strings, I could take something home with me to wear to school on Monday.



Main Street Salisbury Exhibit, August 29, 2011-May 25, 2012.

Woolworth's, Read's Drugstore, Lad 'n Lassie, White & Leonard's, and other downtown stores served the needs of shoppers and diners alike in those pre-mall days. Woolworth's and Read's had lunch counters and family-style booths. Their menus always featured hot platters, the fast food of the time. Mashed potatoes sat in one huge pot, gravy in another, awaiting hungry diners. How quickly brown gravy was ladled over the steamy mashed potatoes and slivered beef or turkey, and served with a sprig of parsley to finish off the plate! And the milkshakes were made right in front of us. The ice cream was scooped out into a tall silver container and then put under the swirling shaft of the milkshake mixing machine. A glass, bubbling at the brim with the thick, cold, creamy shake, was set next to us along with the frosty silver container holding the rest of it, encouraging us to finish off the foamy mixture.

Pies were de rigueur after a meal. Cherry, apple, blueberry, or a slice of banana, coconut, or chocolate cream pie topped with meringue – it was all too filling, but not wallet-busting. Five dollars could feed a family of three or four. And what else did you come to town for – just the groceries?

Most, if not all, of the old familiar shops and stores are gone now, leaving a TV station, lawyers, banks, and new 'boutiques' in their wake. The 'pedestrian' way, created in the 1970s, saw less use once shoppers abandoned downtown for the new (now the old and demolished) Salisbury Mall. Downtown Salisbury has been brought back to some semblance of its former self as a one-way stretch. Today, cars navigate through huge brick flower planters and railed-off trees on their way to the Wicomico River at the western end of the street.

This brief description is a way to bring attention to our readers about Nabb's upcoming exhibit – Main Street Salisbury. My reminiscence is from the 1960s. However, Nabb's exhibit showcases the growth and development of Main Street Salisbury from the late nineteenth century until the mid-1930s. Come and enjoy a walk down memory lane at our exhibit. The images and artifacts are sure to capture attention and tug at your heart strings as memories of bygone days flood your mind. All ages will enjoy the sights and sounds of our re-created Main Street.

The author, Denise Horner, is a receptionist at the Nabb Research Center and has a particular interest in local history.

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801-6861
410-543-6312
E-mail: rcdhac@salisbury.edu

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

non-profit org.
U. S. postage
PAID
Salisbury, Maryland
permit no. 65

Exhibits and Events - Fall 2011

Main Street Salisbury Exhibit

Nabb Center, Gallery August 29-May 25

Explore the turn-of-the-20th-century business district of Salisbury, MD. Discover Main Street Salisbury through artifacts and photographs from Nabb Center archives. This exhibit is co-sponsored by DiCarlo Digital Copying Center.

The Maryland Dove Lecture and Tour

Docked in Downtown Salisbury, September 14-18

The Maryland Dove, a full-scale replica of one of the two ships that carried colonists to Maryland in 1634, will be on display in Downtown Salisbury. The ship will be open to the public for tours on September 17-18. This event is co-sponsored by the Wicomico County Historical Society. For information call 410-543-6312.

Images of America: Salisbury by Jason Rhodes Book Signing

Nabb Center, Saturday, September 24, 2 p.m.

Jason Rhodes guides readers through the exciting history of Salisbury Towne and its people, beginning with its founding in 1732 to the modern "Crossroads of Delmarva," the most populous city between Virginia Beach, VA, and Dover, DE.

The Eastern Shore Through the Eye of the Photographer

Online Exhibit: Visit
http://nabbhistory.salisbury.edu/archives/exhibits/digitalexhibits.asp,
Begins October 3

This online exhibit features images of the Eastern Shore shot by its most famous photographer, Orlando Wootten.

Gallows on the Marsh Discussion

Nabb Center, Thursday, October 6, 7 p.m.

Local historian Linda Duyer leads a discussion of the book *Gallows on the Marsh* by Brooks Miles Barnes, Ph.D. Gallows tells the story of the 1906 lynching of William Lee, which took place in Somerset County, MD.

Firefest Exhibit

City Center, Downtown Salisbury, October 17-21

On October 17, 1886, Salisbury was decimated by the most powerful fire in city history. Two hundred buildings were destroyed and 22 acres of the center of Salisbury were burned. The exhibit features images of the 1886 fire provided by the Nabb Center.

"Mommy, Where Did I Come From?" Lecture

Nabb Center, Tuesday, October 18, 7 p.m.

Ralph Nelson, president of the Sussex County Genealogical Society, addresses issues with genealogy work and discusses strategies to research family history.

'Haunted Eastern Shore: Ghostly Tales from East of the Chesapeake' Reading

Nabb Center, Monday, October 31, 7 p.m.

In time for Halloween, author Mindie Burgoyne thrills readers with stories of Eastern Shore ghosts, direct from her book *Haunted Eastern Shore: Ghostly Tales from East of the Chesapeake.*

I Didn't Bargain For This! By Mitzi Perdue Reading & Book Signing

Tuesday, November 1, Perdue Hall 151 & First Floor Lounge, 7 p.m.

Perdue reads highlights from her recent book by the same name, with behind-the-scenes stories of what it took to build the Sheraton Hotel chain and the Perdue poultry company. Admission is $10. Reservations are required. Make checks payable to Salisbury University Foundation, Inc.